

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 09/935,846 Examiner Maureen M. Wallenhorst	Applicant(s) ITO ET AL. Art Unit 1743
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendments received on June 22, 2004 and June 23, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-7, 9-10, 2, 11, 8, 12 (renumbered 1-12).
3. The drawings filed on 24 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Skwierawski on August 27, 2004.

On line 6 of claim 1, the phrase "said second mode comprises" was changed to --said method in the second mode comprises--. On line 14 of claim 1, the phrase "schematic operation guidance at" was deleted, and the phrase "a plurality of operation" was changed to --a plurality of schematic operation--. On line 15 of claim 1, the word "and" was deleted. On line 16 of claim 1, the phrase "when said operation guidance illustration is selected" was changed to --selecting an operation guidance illustration and--.

On line 6 of claim 2, the phrase "said second mode comprises" was changed to --said method in the second mode comprises--. On line 11 of claim 2, the phrase "when one of works is selected from said menu" was changed to --selecting one of the works from said menu and--. On line 13 of claim 2, the phrase "schematic operation guidance at" was deleted, and the phrase "a plurality of operation" was changed to --a plurality of schematic operation--. On line 14 of claim 2, the word "images" was changed to --image--, and the word "and" was deleted. On line 15 of claim 2, the phrase "when said operation guidance illustration is selected" was changed to --selecting an operation guidance illustration and--.

On line 4 of claim 3, the phrase –with icons—was inserted after the phrase “in a task bar”. On line 5 of claim 3, the phrase “any one of icons” was changed to –any one of said icons-

Claim 7 was changed to depend from claim 6.

On line 6 of claim 8, the phrase “said second mode comprises” was changed to –said method in the second mode comprises--. Lines 19-22 of claim 8 were deleted and replaced by the following lines: --wherein, when a display image of a first sorted work is displayed as operation guidance, operation guidance to the next sequential sorted work is continued by selecting a check button displayed in the display image of the first sorted work--.

On lines 4-5 of claim 9, the phrase “selections of one of said icons in a task bar” was changed to –selection of an icon in a task bar--.

On line 3 of claims 10-12, the phrase “lock the non-laboratory-technician to use the second mode” was changed to –restrict the non-laboratory-technician to the second mode--.

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: Application serial no. 09/935,846 is being allowed since none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests an operation guidance method of a clinical system for testing biological samples which provides guidance on the clinical procedure to allow non-laboratory technicians to effectively operate a laboratory to test biological samples, wherein the operation guidance method is switchable over from a first (laboratory technician) mode providing little guidance to a second (non-laboratory technician) mode providing high details concerning a procedure of operation normally performed by the laboratory technician. None of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests switching over between two different display modes on a computer for guidance on a clinical procedure,

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wherein the second mode for the non-laboratory technician comprises the steps of sorting out works to be performed by the non-laboratory technician with guidance in accordance with a procedure of operation normally performed by an experienced lab technician, displaying a menu of sorted works on an initial screen, and providing guidance of operation by sequentially displaying display images as operation guidance on respective works in accordance with the procedure of operation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maureen M. Wallenhorst whose telephone number is 571-272-1266. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden, can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maureen M. Wallenhorst
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1743

mmw

August 30, 2004

Maureen M. Wallenhorst
MAUREEN M. WALLENHORST
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1700